United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/612
2 April 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets with Prime Minister Michel Rocard of France in Paris to review major items on the international agenda on the first stop of his four-country tour of Western Europe.

+ Commission on Transnational Corporations begins session in New York.

+ Food and Agriculture Organization issues warning at the opening of its first "Fertilizer Week", in Rome.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Paris on 31 March at the start of a four-country tour of Western Europe.

He met today with Michel Rocard, Prime Minister of France, with whom he reviewed major items on the international agenda. They discussed the economic future of Namibia, and the Secretary-General informed Mr. Rocard of his intention to call a donors' conference in June. The Prime Minister outlined France's endeavours to mobilize the efforts of the European Economic Community (EEC), stressing that Namibia in the near future would become a member of the Lomé Convention. The Secretary-General also briefed the Prime minister on his contacts with South Africa's President F.W. De Klerk and with Nelson Mandela during his recent visit in Windhoek.

Concerning the Middle East, the Secretary-General reaffirmed his view that the international conference remained the best means to approach the problem. The situation in Lebanon was also discussed. The two agreed on the need to help the civilian Government in Haiti organize elections, and the Secretary-General stressed the need for economic assistance to that country.

On Cambodia, the Secretary-General told the Prime Minister that the United Nations was ready to carry out the mission. However, before could be entrusted with the mission, the Organization needed a clear mandate and sound financing from the Security Council. The Secretary-General also briefed the Prime Minister on his efforts to organize a referendum in Western Sahara, stressing that progress had been made during his recent visit to North Africa.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Earlier today, the Secretary-General had received the Co-ordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan, Sadruddin Aga Khan, who briefed him on his recent visit to the area together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Thorvald Stoltenberg, and James Ingram, Executive Director of World Food Programme.

This afternoon, the Secretary-General met with Michel Vaucelle, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the French National Assembly, for a review of the world situation.

This evening, the Secretary-General was to attend a dinner given by Maurice Druon, Permanent Secretary of French Academy, where, tomorrow, he would be received in a solemn ceremony attended by French President François Mitterrand.

* * *

Recent developments related to transnational corporations and international economic relations, the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia and of banks, as well as the international debt problem are among the topics which the Commission on Transnational Corporations is to discuss during its eight-day session at Headquarters.

In addition, the Commission will continue its efforts, begun in 1976, to draft a code of conduct on transnational corporations.

The agenda also includes items on transnational corporations and the environment, strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealing with transnationals, ways of increasing investment by corporations in the least developed countries and the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations.

Among today's speakers, Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, said technological progress, particularly in the field of communications, structural adjustment programmes in developing countries and, more recently, the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union were leading to greater reliance on market forces and closer interrelationships in the world economy, thus strengthening global interdependence. Those changes had created conditions in which transnational corporations had the potential to play a more significant and constructive role in promoting global economic integration and in increasing trade, transfers of capital, technology and managerial expertise.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, Peter Hansen, said that, with much of the world's attention and growing quantities of resources being focused on Europe, "there is a real danger that the problems of developing countries will not receive the scrutiny they deserve". Economic integration in Western Europe, as well as in North America, had created additional incentives for increased foreign investment within developed market economies. The single-market programme of the European Community posed two major challenges to developing countries:

maintaining community markets for their exports and maintaining and expanding foreign direct investment by transnational corporations in the face of rapidly expanding investment opportunities in Western and Eastern Europe.

* * *

The loss of soil fertility in many developing countries poses an immediate threat to food production and could result in a catastrophe no less serious than from other forms of environmental degradation, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported today.

The agency issued the warning at the opening of its first "Fertilizer Week", 2 to 6 April, when government, FAO and industry experts meet at FAO headquarters in Rome to discuss fertilizers and plant nutrition. It said action was needed at the international, national and farm levels to avoid a plant nutrient depletion catastrophe that could be far more serious than environmental problems such as acid rain and damage to the ozone layer.

The FAO states that some developed countries consume such massive amounts of mineral fertilizers -- up to 700 kilogrammes of plant nutrients per hectare -- that they risk endangering the environment by excessive and inappropriate use. By contrast, Africa, excluding North African countries, uses only 11 kilogrammes per hectare, Latin America 48 and Asia 62.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/613
3 April 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets on last day of visit to Paris with President François Mitterrand of France, Prime Minister Son Sann of Cambodia, and President of the French National Assembly Laurent Fabius; and attends ceremony at the Institut de France where he is installed as foreign member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences.

+ General Assembly decides on the mandate and responsibilities of the secretariat for the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development.

+ Board of Trustees of United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), begins twenty-eighth session in New York, hearing statement by Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria, President of the General Assembly.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, on his four-country tour of Western Europe, met on the last day of his visit to Paris with President François Mitterrand at the Elysée Palace. Their talks focused on three main issues: the possibility of economic assistance to Haiti with the aim of facilitating the holding of democratic elections; the Middle East situation; and the results of the Secretary-General's recent visit to North Africa in exercise of his good offices concerning Western Sahara.

Subsequently, President Mitterrand accompanied the Secretary-General to the Institut de France where the latter was installed as a foreign member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, succeeding Constantine Tsatsos, former President of Greece. Also attending the ceremony were French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Education Minister Lionel Jospin and other representatives of the French Government, as well as a large number of academicians, representing the five academies which make up the French Institute, including the Permanent Secretary of the Académie francaise, Maurice Druon, and the Permanent Secretary of the Moral and Political Science Academy, Bernard Chenot.

(more)

READEX FICHE

This morning, the Secretary-General met with Prime Minister Son Sann of Cambodia. They discussed the present stage of negotiations aimed at finding a solution to the Cambodian problem and the possible role of the United Nations in future arrangements.

The Secretary-General then met with Laurent Fabius, President of the French National Assembly, with whom he reviewed some major items on the agenda of the United Nations, beginning with the United Nations' recent successful involvement in Namibia's independence process. The economic situation in Africa was raised and the Secretary-General expressed his concern over the drop in commodity prices.

On Western Sahara, the Secretary-General briefed Mr. Fabius on his recent visit to North Africa and prospects for a referendum on the future of the Territory. The situations in the Middle East and Lebanon were discussed in some depth.

In his conversations with Mr. Fabius, the Secretary-General stressed that the United Nations must play a key role in the solution of global issues, such as drugs, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and terrorism. He also briefed him on the preparatory arrangements for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Mr. Fabius, on his part, stressed the importance for French public opinion of environmental matters and reviewed the present situation in Europe, stressing France's attachment to the construction of a united Europe.

This evening the Secretary-General will be guest of honour at a dinner given by the Diplomatic Academy of Paris to be attended by the diplomatic corps.

He will leave Paris early tomorrow morning for Geneva where he will preside over a meeting of representatives of the Government of EL Salvador and of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) before travelling to Athens for a three-day visit to Greece.

* * *

The General Assembly, at a brief meeting yesterday, decided on the mandate and responsibilities of the secretariat for the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development. It authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments this year up to $6,392,500 for preparations for the Conference.

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to review the resources required, including the numbers and grades of the proposed staff of the secretariat for the Conference, at the three locations (Nairobi, Geneva and New York), in the light of savings recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

In another decision, the Assembly welcomed the offer of Switzerland to provide free office accommodation for the secretariat for the Conference when

(more)

needed. Smaller offices will be located in Nairobi and New York. Earlier in its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly decided to hold the Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992, and accepted the offer of Brazil to be host to the event.

* * *

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is an institution which the developing countries, particularly Africa, appreciate very much, Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria, President of the General Assembly, stated yesterday at the opening of the twenty-eighth session of that body's Board of Trustees, in New York.

He said that for more than a decade, his country had been one of the two largest beneficiaries of UNITAR's training programmes, in terms of number of people trained since the establishment of the Institute; and for the last three years, Nigeria had ranked as the country having the largest number of former trainees of UNITAR.

Mr. Garba further stated that his Government had decided in 1987 to establish a Reserve Fund for the Institute in the amount of $1 million, the interest from which should be used as Nigeria's annual contribution to the General Fund of UNITAR, thus affording predictability and continuity to the funding of the Institute. That action was taken despite Nigeria's own financial difficulties as it believed that Member States should "put their money where their interest lies and not merely pass resolutions stressing the importance and relevance of the mandate of UNITAR".

The session, which is being held during the twenty-fifth year of UNITAR's existence, will end on Friday.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/614
4 April 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General presides over Geneva meeting of representatives of Government of El Salvador and of FMLN.

+ Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Central America, meets with heads of negotiating commissions of Government of El Salvador and of FMLN in Geneva.

+ The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, Therese P. Sevigny, announces results of public opinion polls, released today, which show major improvement in the United Nations image world-wide.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar flew from Paris to Geneva today and presided over a meeting of representatives of the Government of El Salvador and of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

The Government side was led by the Justice Minister, Oscar Santamaria, while FMLN was headed by Commander Shafik Handal.

Before the meeting began, the Secretary-General received the two delegations. He then took his place at the head of U-shaped table, with his Personal Representative on Central America, Alvaro de Soto, on his right. Both delegations entered the Council room at the same time from opposite corners, and the Secretary-General introduced each delegation to the other and they then took their places. The Secretary-General read out a statement which was then presented to each side for signature. Three copies were then signed by the United Nations, the Government side and FMLN.

The Secretary-General left Geneva this afternoon for Athens, to begin a three-day visit to Greece.

* * *

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The heads of the negotiating commissions of the Government of El Salvador, Mr. Santamaria, and of FMLN, Mr. Handal, met today in Geneva with the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Central America, Mr. de Soto. It was agreed that a period of preparation and reflection, as well as consultations by the Secretary-General's Representative, would begin immediately so as to lay the groundwork for direct meetings which are to take place starting in the first week of May.

Following the meeting, Mr. de Soto issued a communique in which he stated that he had held consultations with the Government of El Salvador and FMLN in order to agree on the format, mechanism and pace of a process aimed at bringing about as speedily as possible, under his auspices, "a definitive end to the armed conflict in that country". He had agreed to carry out this effort, he said, because he had received assurances from both parties that "there is a serious intention and good faith to seek to bring about such an end through negotiations".

Mr. de Soto stated that, as a result of his consultations, the parties had agreed on a number of points, which were designed to ensure that the process proceeded in an efficient and serious manner and promoted mutual trust through appropriate guarantees.

He said he believed that the scrupulous maintenance of these guarantees, over and above their intrinsic importance, would demonstrate the desire and ability of the parties to carry out the commitments they would undertake during the negotiations. On this understanding, the Government and FMLN had pledged not to renounce the negotiation process.

Among the points agreed upon was to end the armed conflict through political means as speedily as possible, promote the democratization of the country, guarantee unrestricted respect for human rights and reunify Salvadorian society, Mr. de Soto stated.

These political agreements would have to be verified by the United Nations, subject to the approval of the Security Council, he stated. Once that had been achieved, the process should lead to the establishment of the necessary guarantees and conditions for reintegrating the members of FMLN, within a framework of full legality, into the civil, institutional and political life of the country.

The parties agreed that the process should be carried out under the auspices of the Secretary-General in a continuing and ongoing manner with direct dialogue between the negotiation commissions and with the active participation of the Secretary-General or his Representative. The Government and FMLN should ensure that their negotiation commissions were fully authorized to discuss and conclude agreements.

Mr. de Soto stated that the Government and FMLN had agreed that the process should be conducted in the strictest confidence. The only public information on the development of the process should be that which was provided by the Secretary-General or his authorized representative.

(more)

The parties also agreed that the commissions might call upon the representatives of political parties and social organizations in order to receive their contributions in achieving peace.

* * *

The results of public opinion polls released today show a major improvement in the United Nations image world-wide. They show a majority of people in Australia, Canada, Mexico and the 12 countries of the European Community now saying that the performance of the United Nations is good rather than poor.

Announcing the results today, the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, Therese P. Sevigny, said the most interesting factor in the surveys was the consistency in the findings. In the majority of countries polled to date, the six topics selected by all respondents to be the most popular United Nations issues were: environmental protection, drug abuse, human rights, children's issues, international peace and security and crime prevention.

There was also consistency in the fact that television was the main source of information, in virtually all countries polled, Mrs. Sevigny said. There was an improvement in the general awareness of United Nations matters but a decrease in the knowledge of specific activities.

People thought well of the Organization's performance in all the countries polled, she continued. This was a significant improvement from 1985, when polls conducted by Gallup in Australia, Canada, the United States and six European Community countries showed less support for the view that the United Nations was doing a good job. The most dramatic change of opinion has occurred in the United Kingdom, where the number of people thinking the United Nations was doing a good job almost doubled from 26 per cent five years ago to 50 per cent last year.

The only exception to these positive results was in South Africa, where 39 per cent of whites living in urban areas said the United Nations was doing a poor job compared to 23 per cent who felt it was doing a good job. The poll also found that only 26 per cent of urban black South Africans had heard of the United Nations.

The publication of these polls comes during a period which has seen major achievements for the United Nations in the peace-keeping and peace-making field. Among the reasons given by those who said the United Nations was doing a poor job was that there were too many national interests at play for the Organization to reach agreement and be effective.

Other results of the polls show that public awareness of the United Nations is generally high. With the exception of South Africa, awareness levels range from 70 per cent in Mexico to 99 per cent for Denmark.

(more)

Commenting on the findings, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that the results were very encouraging. The general public now recognized that "the United Nations is succeeding as an institution for the resolution of conflict and the promotion of peace in the world".

The Department of Public Information (DPI) has published the results of 17 public opinion polls to date. In addition, polls about the United Nations are being completed in Norway, Poland, Sweden and the Soviet Union. It is anticipated that a further six countries will be surveyed from the regions of Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America by the end of the year.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/615
5 April 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is awarded the Onassis Foundation Athinai Prize for "Man and Mankind" in Athens; makes acceptance speech.

+ Committee on Information hears statements by its Chairman and by Under-Secretary-General for Public Information Therese P. Sevigny, as it begins twelfth session in New York.

+ Secretary-General receives request from the President of Haiti for United Nations assistance in organizing elections in that country.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was today awarded the Onassis Foundation Athinai Prize for "Man and Mankind" in Athens. In his acceptance speech the Secretary-General said there was a danger, more insidious and fundamental, that in dealing with issues of international concern sight was to often lost of human implications and moral dimension. Even the word peace could become an abstraction, the Secretary-General said, "an immense blanket thrown over the concrete realities of pain and suffering in the world of today".

There could not be a more sustained affront to human dignity than absolute poverty, he said. As long as a proportion of the world's resources continued to be allocated to "such wasteful pursuits as the arms race", this affront would continue to darken the fate and future of fellow human beings.

* * *

Opening the 12-day session of the Committee of Information today, its Chairman, Orobola Fasehum (Nigeria), said the twin challenge facing the Committee was to exploit the current atmosphere to reach consensus on a new world information and communication order, thus enhancing the media capacities of the developing world, and to focus attention on the concern for freedom of information, the plurality of sources and the ownership of the means of communications.

(more)

For information media - not an official record

He said the Committee's task was to give clear directives to the Department of Public Information (DPI) to enable it to address key issues of concern to Member countries, such as apartheid, Palestine, human rights, environmental issues, the status of women, disarmament, the economic and social crisis facing developing countries and the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, Therese P. Sevigny, told the Committee it was necessary to conduct the multifaceted public information tasks of the United Nations in compliance with the technological and perceptional requirements of a super-media world. The changes in the media and their ways of reaching large audiences of different cultural and national identities had far-reaching consequences also for the concept of DPI's international mandate.

Mrs. Sevigny noted an ever-increasing number of journalists covering United Nations meetings at Headquarters and of non-governmental organizations. Renewed public interest in the United Nations also was reflected in the growing number of visitors, she said.

During the session, the Committee will examine the ongoing efforts of DPI to inform the peoples of the world about the Organization; consider a draft plan of activities for the period 1992-1997; discuss a "new, more just and more effective world information and communication order"; consider DPI's activities against apartheid and on the Middle East; and examine the need for technical assistance to radio stations that are broadcasting or willing to broadcast to South Africa.

* * *

The spokeswoman for the Secretary-General today confirmed that he had received a letter dated 15 March from the President of Haiti, Ertha Pascal Trouillot, requesting United Nations assistance in organizing elections in that country, including the sending of observers.

The spokeswoman said a United Nations mission was now winding up its work in Haiti, where it had been for the last 12 days. It would report back to the Secretary-General.

The fact-finding mission was composed of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Haiti, Reinhart Helmke; the President of the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua, Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren; the Deputy Head of the United Nations Observers for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua (ONUVEN), Horacio Boneo; and an electoral expert with the then ONUVEN operation, Maria Grossi.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/616
6 April 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General's fifth and final report of the United Nations Observers to verify the electoral process in Nicaragua, focusing on the actual voting day and the election results, says "the electoral process was impartial and fair throughout".

+ Alvaro de Soto, Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Central America, briefs correspondents at Headquarters on talks between the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) and the Government of El Salvador held in Geneva last Wednesday.

+ Security Council accepts offer from Argentine Government to contribute four patrol boats with crews to United Nations Observer Group in Central America, for duty in the Gulf of Fonseca.

* * *

The fifth and final report of the United Nations Observers for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) released today focuses on the election day itself and the results, and terms the electoral process "impartial and fair throughout".

The mission constituted the first time the United Nations monitored an electoral process in a sovereign State. In the past, the United Nations has facilitated referendums and plebiscites in colonial Territories. The mission also represented the first major United Nations operation in the Western Hemisphere.

To monitor the voting on election day, the 207 ONUVEN observers travelled throughout Nicaragua, using 128 vehicles, two helicopters and four small boats. They visited over 2,000 polling stations in all of the municipalities and then went to the regional capitals where they exchanged information and views on what they had observed throughout the day in order to arrive at an overall assessment.

The report also states that the United Nations presence was augmented by over 2,500 foreign observers from 278 organizations and 1,500 foreign

(more)

For information media—not an official record

journalists on hand to cover the story. All of these people were accredited by the Supreme Electoral Council.

Results of the voting showed an 86 per cent turn-out rate of all registered voters. The final results of the election, 54.7 per cent to Violeta Chamorro and the National Opposition Union and 40.8 per cent to the Sandinista Party, were tallied without incident, the report notes.

The transfer of power, which is to take place 25 April, was agreed to at a meeting on 27 February in the presence of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and former United States President Jimmy Carter.

In a note attached to the report, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar commended Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega for "his decision to convene early elections in the spirit of national reconciliation", and to invite the United Nations to oversee the process.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Central America, Alvaro de Soto, briefed correspondents at United Nations Headquarters today about the Agreements, reached in Geneva on 4 April, between the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) and the Government of El Salvador to hold talks with the Secretary-General.

Asked whether the United States had had an input in the negotiations, Mr. de Soto said the Secretary-General had been in touch with the United States Government "repeatedly" on the question and that the United States had been "helpful".

Mr. de Soto said the format of the negotiations allowed for two broad options -- one, an intermediary role either by the Secretary-General or by his Representative; and two, direct talks with the participation of the Secretary-General or his Representative.

The El Salvador talks are scheduled to begin the first week of May.

* * *

The Security Council has agreed to accept an offer from the Government of Argentina to contribute four fast patrol boats, with crews, which are required by the United Nations Observer Mission in Central America (ONUCA) for duty in the Gulf of Fonseca.

The military personnel of ONUCA are currently contributed by Canada, Colombia, Ireland, Spain and Venezuela, with civilian elements from the Federal Republic of Germany.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/617
9 April 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General addresses opening session in London of World Ministerial Drug Summit together with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom and Colombian President Virgilio Barco-Vargas.

+ Secretary-General meets with Lynda Chalker, United Kingdom Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development; and with Prime Minister Thatcher to discuss a number of international issues, following opening of drug conference.

* * *

The Secretary-General today participated in the opening session of the World Drugs Summit Conference to Reduce Demand for Drugs and to Combat The Cocaine Threat at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, together with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom and President Virgilio Barco-Vargas of Colombia.

Organized by the United Kingdom Government, in association with the United Nations, the Conference will seek to increase the international commitment to reducing the demand for all drugs and to identify ways in which international co-operation could most effectively be targeted to combat the production and trafficking of cocaine.

The Secretary-General, in an opening statement, said the recent tragic events in Colombia had drawn the world's attention to the "sweeping, profound and painful implications of the drug scourge".

He stated that it had been estimated that the world traffic in illicit drugs amounted to roughly $500 billion a year. Only the arms trade exceeded it. Equally, it had been estimated that there were some 40 million consumers of illicit drugs throughout the world.

Emphasizing "the necessity to take a global approach to the drug problem" that only the United Nations could effectively provide, the Secretary-General stated that in recent years work had intensified with the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1987, the adoption of the

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1988, and the convening of a special session of the General Assembly a few weeks ago in New York.

Also making a opening statement at the Conference, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced the setting up of a new task force of British experts who would visit other countries to advise on drug demand-reduction programmes. She also suggested five specific areas where drug-reduction policies might concentrate: education and deterrence, strengthening of the family as defence, early identification and treatment of addicts.

Stating that the United Kingdom would not legalize illicit drugs, she declared: "That is the way to destroy young lives, ruin families and undermine society itself."

Virgilio Barco-Vargas, President of Colombia, also addressed the opening ceremony.

The World Ministerial Drug Summit ends on Wednesday, 11 April.

* * *

Following the opening of the Drug Summit, the Secretary-General met with Mrs. Lynda Chalker, United Kingdom Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, with whom he discussed the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia and the recent mission to that country by Abdulrahim A. Farah, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-General met with Mrs. Thatcher at 10 Downing Street. They had extensive talks on a number of international issues, including an evaluation of the summit on drugs; the United Nations financial situation; Namibia, following its independence and prospects for its economic development; and the situation in southern Africa and recent developments in that regard.

Also discussed were the Cambodian question and a possible involvement of the United Nations in a settlement of the Cambodian question; the question of Cyprus following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 649 in March; the situation in Lebanon; as well as the Secretary-General's recent trip to North Africa in connection with his good offices on Western Sahara.

Also reviewed were the Iran/Iraq situation in the light of the Secretary-General's present efforts to convene talks; the present situation in Europe and relations between European States; as well as the fate of the Vietnamese boat people going to Hong Kong.

The Secretary-General will be travelling tomorrow, 10 April, to Brussels where he will attend a special meeting of the European Economic Community

(more)

(EEC).

* * *

A draft resolution has been introduced in the United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporations which would have the Economic and Social Council directly condemn the Governments of the United Kingdom and Hungary for recent steps taken to liberalize ties with South Africa.

Introduced by the representative of Mali on behalf of the Group of African States, the draft would have the Council condemn the United Kingdom for its decision to lift unilaterally the ban of the Commission of European Communities on new investments in South Africa and call on it to rescind that decision.

The Council would also condemn the Government of Hungary for its decision to initiate "commercial, economic and political links" with South Africa and call on Hungary to "return to its traditional position of opposing racism".

Introducing the draft resolution, Noumou Diakite of Mali, on behalf of the Group of African States, addressed the meeting saying that the international community, and Africa in particular, could not consider the events occurring in South Africa, such as the release of Nelson Mandela, as a reason for lifting sanctions. It was time to step up pressure on South Africa and African States deplored the rescheduling of the African debt.

* *** *

CORRECTION: The second paragraph of page 2 of the Wednesday Highlights (4 April), should read as follows:

Following the meeting, the Secretary-General read out to the participants the communique in which he stated that he had held consultations with the Government of El Salvador and FMLN in order to agree on the format, mechanism and pace of a process aimed at bringing about as speedily as possible, under his auspices, a "definitive end to the armed conflict in that country". He had agreed to carry out this effort, he said, because he had received assurances from both parties that "there is a serious intention and good faith to seek to bring about such an end through negotiations".

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/618
10 April 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General arrives in Brussels for meetings with Belgian leaders and representatives of the Commission of the European Communities.

+ President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, submits application to Secretary-General in accordance with Article 4 of the United Nations Charter to become a Member of the Organization.

* * *

The Secretary-General arrived in Brussels today for meetings with Belgian leaders and representatives of the Commission of the European Communities. After his arrival in that country the Secretary-General had a short meeting with King Baudouin I of the Belgians at the official palace.

The Secretary-General, accompanied by Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, and Gerald Hinteregger, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, attended a formal meeting of the Commission of the European Communities at its headquarters in central Brussels under the chairmanship of its President, Jacques Delors.

In an informal exchange with 13 of the Commissioners, the Secretary-General and his hosts discussed the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which will take place in Brazil in 1992. The need for the Conference to achieve concrete results and to set up mechanisms for the implementation and the monitoring of its decisions was stressed.

On the question of development and third world debt, which was reviewed in the light of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly due to start on 23 April, the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Commission to the possible consequences for developing countries of recent events in Eastern and Central Europe and informed them of the concerns raised with him by leaders of developing countries about the possible slowing down of the European Community's assistance.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Mr. Delors, on his part, briefed the Secretary-General on the dynamic development of the European Community's economy recently and assured him of the Commission's preoccupation with the development of African and Latin American countries. The Secretary-General was also briefed on the European Community's approach to changes in Eastern Europe and of its vision for a new European architecture.

This evening, the Secretary-General is scheduled to address the Grandes Conférences Catholiques.

Tomorrow, he will visit Antwerp and have talks with Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens and Prime Minister Wilfried Martens who will be hosting a dinner in his honour.

* * *

The President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, has submitted an application to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter to become a Member of the Organization and to enable the delegation of that country to participate in the work of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to economic development and environment, to be held from 23-28 April at Headquarters in New York.

Mr. Nujoma said, in a letter to the Secretary-General, that convinced of the acceptance of the application, his country would undertake to make a solemn pledge to accept and carry out the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/619
11 April 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, on second day of his official visit to Belgium, meets in Brussels with Foreign Minister to discuss the international situation.

+ Council for Namibia concludes special plenary meetings in Windhoek, declaring its responsibility for Namibia fulfilled at independence; recommending to General Assembly its own dissolution; and adopting declaration by acclamation.

+ Spokeswoman confirms that 117 Venezuelan soldiers have arrived in Honduras to assist the United Nations Observer Group in Central America when demobilization of Nicaraguan contras take place.

+ Secretary-General has meeting in London with Mrs. Vassiliou, wife of President of Cyprus, to discuss humanitarian cases in the island republic; Gustave Feissel, appointed as temporary replacement for Secretary-General Special Representative in Cyprus, travels to Cyprus in early May.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is on the second day of his official visit to Belgium, today visited Antwerp under the guidance of its Mayor, Bob Cools.

When he returned to Brussels for a meeting with Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens at the Egmont Palace, their discussion concerned the international situation, focusing on some of the main problems on the United Nations agenda. Mr. Eyskens reaffirmed Belgium's support for the Organization and praised its improved performance over the past few years under Mr. Perez de Cuellar's leadership. The situation in the Middle East was reviewed, with special emphasis on prospects for an international conference within the United Nations context. The situation in Lebanon and in the Israeli-occupied territories was also discussed.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General briefed the Foreign Minister on his efforts to bring about a renewed round of talks between Iran and Iraq.

The prospect for a United Nations role in the solution to the Cambodian problem was also discussed. In this connection, the Secretary-General stressed the need for security guarantees, clear terms of reference and financial support for a possible United Nations operation and assured the Foreign Minister that the United Nations stood ready to play its part, if necessary.

Mr. Eyskens briefed the Secretary-General on Belgium's view of the present and future evolution of Europe in the political and disarmament fields and on the prospects for European unity. The problems of population, migration and emigration were also touched upon in an exchange of views on the economic problems of developing countries.

Following the meeting, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.

Tomorrow, 12 April, the Secretary-General will address a solemn meeting of the ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions) and later meet with the President of the Belgian Senate, Frank Swaelen, and the President of the Chamber of Representatives, Charles Ferdinand Noteomb. The Secretary-General is then scheduled to be received for a second time in audience by King Baudouin I of the Belgians.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar will leave Brussels in the late afternoon for Paris on his way back to New York over the Easter weekend.

* * *

United Nations Council for Namibia today declared that its responsibility as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence was fulfilled on 21 March when Namibia attained independence and freedom; and that it was proud to recommend to the General Assembly its own dissolution. It also called on all to address the immense challenges facing the new nation.

The Council took these actions by adopting, by acclamation and as amended, a declaration at the conclusion of its three-day special plenary meetings in Namibia's capital, Windhoek.

The Declaration stated that the achievement of independence was "a fitting tribute to the heroism and determination of the Namibian people in their long and difficult struggle for national liberation in which the South West African People's Organization played the leading role". It also cited the unique and historic role played by the United Nations and its agencies, the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the "critical" implementation of Security Council resolution 435 of 1978 by the United Nations Assistance Transition Group (UNTAG).

(more)

The Council also adopted two resolutions in which it expressed its gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia for the invitation to hold the special plenary meetings in Windhoek; recalled the steadfast support it had received from the Government and people of Zambia; and paid tribute to the Council President, Peter D. Zuze (Zambia), for his leadership in fulfilling the Council's responsibilities.

In a statement at the meeting, the Prime Minister of Namibia, Hage Geingob, referred to the leading role SWAPO had played, first in the armed struggle, subsequently in elections and then in providing peace and harmony in the drafting of the Constitution. He said the Council, as trustees, had come to Windhoek to hand over the trust in a sovereign and independent Namibia, to Sam Nujoma, President of Namibia, on behalf of the Namibian people.

The President of the Council, Mr. Zuze, said the Council was coming to and end after 23 years of work on behalf of Namibia. The Council was in essence a group of States joined together in common cause under the banner of the United Nations, now content in its knowledge that its mission had been accomplished.

* * *

A United Nations spokeswoman confirmed today at Headquarters in New York that 117 Venezuelan soldiers arrived in Tegucigalpa yesterday to assist the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) when demobilization of the contras takes place. The remainder of the infantry batallion, a total of 700 to 800 soldiers, is on standby in Venezuela.

Deployment of the contras would depend on certain factors, she said. The agreement had not yet been reached on a cease-fire in Nicaragua, nor on the modalities for the voluntary demobilization of the contras, nor even on a deadline for the completion of the demobilization. However, intensive consultations were going on, presided by General Quesada Gomez, Chief Military Observer of ONUCA, and by Iqbal Riza, director of the United Nations Observer Mission for the Nicaraguan Elections, and with all concerned in this process.

* * *

A spokeswoman for the Secretary-General confirmed today that a meeting had been held in London, in the evening of 9 April, between the Secretary-General and Mrs. Vassiliou, wife of the President of Cyprus, who raised with him a number of humanitarian cases.

The Secretary-General told Mrs. Vassiliou that he would try on humanitarian grounds to do his best to help on the situation. In view of the absence of his Special Representative on Cyprus, Oscar Camilion, absent from that country for medical reasons, the Secretary-General had some time ago decided to send to that country Gustave Feissel, who is in charge on the Cyprus question at the Office of the Secretary-General at Headquarters. Mr. Feissel will be going to Cyprus in early May.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/620
12 April 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, on third day of his official visit to Belgium, addresses the Organizations of African Unity (OAU) and African, Caribbean and Pacific regions (ACP) at their headquarters in Brussels.

+ Commission on Transnational Corporations adopts draft resolution, condemning the United Kingdom and Hungary for their recent steps taken to liberalize ties with South Africa.

+ Information Committee concludes debate, hearing 13 delegations.

+ United Nations Disaster Relief Organization reports that due to fighting in Liberia, the situation in Nimba county of that country continues to be "precarious". In the United Republic of Tanzania the situation was serious because of flooding.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, today, on the third day of his official visit to Belgium, addressed the Organizations of African Unity (OAU) and African, Caribbean and Pacific regions (ACP) at their headquarters in Brussels.

In his address, the Secretary-General welcomed the excellent co-operation between the United Nations and OAU/ACP which at present is made up of 68 States and will soon include Namibia.

He said the political, economic, social and cultural problems about which the group is concerned are "at the heart of the United Nations preoccupations". Outlining a number of common concerns, the Secretary-General said Namibia's economic development should be encouraged through "a great movement of international assistance".

On the question of apartheid, he stressed that Nelson Mandela's liberation had been "an expression of good will on the part of President De Klerk but not an end in itself, simply a significant step on the road which must lead to the total dismantling of apartheid". He expressed the hope that

(more)

For information media—not an official record

southern Africa would become the catalyst of an integrated economic development which would benefit the whole region.

The Secretary-General also expressed his preoccupation with the economic and social crisis which developing countries are at present undergoing, in particular African countries. "We must quite clearly agree rapidly on the common approach to solve the problem of the outside debt of developing countries which constitutes an obstacle to their growth and development", he said.

In the context of United Nations efforts towards development for third world countries, the Secretary-General stressed also the importance of the upcoming General Assembly special session on international economic co-operation, which will be held in New York from 23 to 28 April, and of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris from 3 to 14 September.

The Secretary-General also met for a second audience with King Baudouin I.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to return to New York over the weekend.

* * *

The Commission on Transnational Corporations adopted last night a draft resolution, recommending that the Economic and Social Council condemn the United Kingdom and Hungary for the recent steps they have taken to liberalize ties with South Africa.

By its terms, the draft, introduced by the representative of Mali on behalf of the Group of African States, recommends that the Council condemn the United Kingdom for its decision to lift unilaterally the ban of the Commission of European Communities on new investments in South Africa and calls on it to rescind that decision.

The Council would also condemn Hungary for its decision to initiate "commercial, economic and political links" with South Africa and call on it to "return to its traditional position of opposing racism".

The draft was adopted by a roll-call vote of 27 in favour to 10 against (Canada, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States), with 3 abstentions (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Zaire).

The Commission also approved, without a vote, a draft recommending that the Economic and Social Council urge Member States to intensify their efforts to conclude negotiations on the code of conduct for transnational corporations at the Commission's special session on 24 May.

Among those speaking in explanation of their votes, the representative of the United Kingdom, who had voted against the draft, said he deeply regretted the action of Mali in bringing forward a draft which included "name-calling".

(more)

The British Government had vigorously opposed apartheid and wanted to see it ended. He welcomed the advances achieved by South Africa's President F.W. De Klerk since he took office. Transnational corporations could continue to play a role in peaceful change in South Africa, but recent events made continuation of a ban on new investments inappropriate.

The representative of the Soviet Union said he had voted in favour of the draft, based on a position of principle, which sought the elimination of apartheid.

The representative of the United States said her country totally rejected apartheid. But the United States did not believe the appropriate response to recent developments of political dynamism in South Africa was to increase or strengthen sanctions. Disinvestment only served to slow the process of change. Furthermore, she could not support the use of name-calling in the draft.

The representative of Norway said she had been unable to vote in favour, as Norway had done in the past. She deplored the practice of singling out individual countries and took exception to the use of the phrase "crime against humanity" and other extreme language in the draft.

* * *

The Committee on Information this morning concluded its debate on such matters as the "establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order", policies and activities of the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the information and communications field.

Among the speakers, the representative of India said developing countries remained ill-equipped to meet the information and communication needs of their peoples, and were even less equipped to inform the outside world about themselves. While he supported the development of new technologies, he said the fruits of that development should be available for enhancing global understanding and co-operation.

The Algerian representative said the present world information and communication order reflected the dominance of the powerful countries which monopolized the means of information transmission and dissemination. A balance was required for development, hence the call by the non-aligned countries for a new world information and communication order. His delegation had taken note of the strengthening of the United Nations Information Centres. The DPI should apply the principle of equitable geographic representation at the highest level in all its divisions.

The Committee must reach consensus on a new world information and communication order during the current session, the representative of Chile stated. Some of the inequalities must be corrected in order to guarantee wider and more just access to the media and sources of information were to be guaranteed.

(more)

The Soviet Union representative said the mass media was becoming an important instrument in Soviet society and played an important role in the changes taking place there. Negotiations between his Government and the United States on information exchanges, including the improvement of the working conditions of journalists from the two countries, were continuing.

He said the Soviet Union supported the desire of the developing countries to overcome the imbalance in the present information order. It favoured a role for the United Nations in all aspects of the information debate. He also referred to the co-operation that existed between the Soviet media, including Soviet television, and DPI.

* * *

The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) said today that due to fighting in Liberia, the situation in Nimba county of that country continued to be precarious and fluid. In the United Republic of Tanzania the situation was serious because of flooding.

In a report on the Liberian situation, UNDRO stated that on 6 April, a train between Buchana and Yekepa was ambushed and three people including a United Kingdom journalist were taken hostage. More displaced persons were arriving in bordering counties of Bong and Grand Bassa and people were also fleeing into Guinea. The area was being monitored closely by an UNDRO official for sending in shipments of food. The UNDRO was arranging to transport food and medication to meet the urgent needs of the displaced persons.

The total value of emergency aid received by UNDRO so far was some $3.5 million contributed by the World Health Organization, the European Economic Community, Australia and two non-governmental organizations.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, heavy rains had reportedly caused serious flooding in the southern part of that country since 2 April, inflicting considerable damage and loss of life, and more rains were expected. Fifty-two deaths had been recorded and 7,000 persons made homeless, according to the report. Also, houses, crops, roads and telephone communications had been destroyed.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/621
16 April 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Demobilization of contras begins in Honduras as 260 members of the Nicaraguan resistance hand over weapons to United Nations Observer Group in Central America personnel.

+ Executive Board of United Nations Children's Fund meets to begin two-week session; Chairman and Executive Director address session.

* * *

Members of the Nicaraguan resistance began to surrender their arms to the United Nations today. According to the spokeswoman for the Secretary-General, "the voluntary demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance got under way at 9 a.m. today when 260 members of the Atlantic Front (Yatama) of the Nicaraguan resistance started handing over their weapons and military equipment to military personnel of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) at La Kiatara in the Honduran part of Miskitia".

The spokeswoman said General Quesada Gomez, the Chief Military Officer of ONUCA, and other senior officers were present.

At a recent meeting in Montelimar, the Central American Presidents accepted the Secretary-General's proposal that the arms should be destroyed on the spot by ONUCA.

The Secretary-General's spokeswoman announced that military personnel and supplies were airlifted over the Easter weekend to the remote area in Honduras for this purpose. The personnel included 30 officers and men of the Venezuelan battalion as well as unarmed ONUCA observers, a medical team and civilian support personnel. She added that "the equipment and supply included, among other things, explosives and tools (soldering torches and sledge-hammers) required in order to render the surrendered weapons inoperative in situ".

* * *

The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) met this morning to begin a two-week session during which it will discuss the Fund's goals for the 1990s, approve country programmes and review the

(more)

For information media—not an official record

situation of children in Eastern Europe and South Africa. The Board will also consider a progress report on preparations for the World Summit for Children, scheduled for September.

Opening the session, the Chairman of the Executive Board, Margarita Dieguez of Mexico, said UNICEF must be ready to respond to the opportunities offered by the new Convention on the Rights of the Child. She hoped the 20 ratifications needed for it to enter into force would be achieved before the September 1990 World Summit for Children.

She said much progress had been made in the area of health care. More countries had achieved the goals of immunization; others were close to it and would require assistance towards that end. Emphasis on education would receive the Board's attention during the current meeting. The problems of the third world still remained unresolved, she said, and the gap between it and the developed world was widening. Environmental questions also threatened the well-being of the world, as did racial problems and the economic crisis facing Africa.

Also addressing the session, James Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, called attention to the Fund's goal of basic education for all and said that a conference in Thailand at the end of March had greatly increased awareness and commitment to that goal. The UNICEF, he said, planned to increase its funding for education programmes from the current 7 per cent to 15 per cent by 1993, with a projected increase to 25 per cent by the year 2000.

He said 1990 was the Year of Universal Child Immunization, and according to the latest statistics of the World Health Organization, 71 per cent of the world's children were now vaccinated, compared to 20 per cent 10 years ago. "If we can maintain the current momentum and take full advantage of the forthcoming World Summit for Children", he said, "immunization coverage will reach 80 per cent by the end of 1990". He also added that a further goal was the eradication of the crippling disease polio by the year 2000.

Mr. Grant drew attention to a set of development goals and strategies for the 1990s. They included reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality rates; reduction of child malnutrition; universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary sewage systems; universal access to basic education; reduction of the adult illiteracy rate; and improved protection of children throughout the world.

In closing, he said four situations existed today in which children were in particular need. In South Africa, he said, the child death rate was 10 times higher for blacks than for whites; in virtually every civil conflict in the 1980s, many children died for every soldier who was killed; in Eastern Europe, new policies of restructuring and openess were creating some problems, especially for the most vulnerable; and with respect to children affected by acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), conditions were rapidly worsening in many countries.

In the general debate statements were made by Egypt, Sweden, Italy, Indonesia, Mexico and Nigeria. An observer from the German Democratic Republic also addressed the Board.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/622
17 April 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously adopts report of its Committee on Admission of New Members, recommending to the General Assembly that Namibia be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

+ Secretary-General expresses concern that proposals during recent consultations concerning the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance will not meet the requirements described in the Tela agreements.

* * *

The Security Council today unanimously adopted the report of its Committee on the Admission of New Members concerning the application of Namibia for membership in the United Nations, recommending to the General Assembly that Namibia be admitted to membership in the Organization.

The question will be the first item on the agenda of the Assembly when it begins its special session on international economic co-operation on 23 April.

The request of Namibia, which became independent on 21 March, is contained in a letter dated 6 April from its President, Sam Nujoma, addressed to the Secretary-General. States are admitted to membership in the Organization by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.

Because of Namibia's request that its application be given consideration on a priority basis to enable its delegation to participate in the special session on international economic co-operation, the Council agreed to waive rule 59 of its provisional rules of procedure, which calls for the Committee to report its conclusions to the Council not less than 14 days in advance of a special session of the General Assembly.

Addressing the Council, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the adoption of the resolution recommending the admission of Namibia to membership in the United Nations was a historic event. It was a source of great satisfaction for him personally that ultimately the solution to the question of Namibia was reached through free and fair elections, under the

(more)

For information media—not an official record

supervision and control of the Organization. The accomplishment by the United Nations of its mission in Namibia demonstrated how long-standing conflicts, seemingly insoluble, could be made to yield to the procedures of peaceful settlement. He expressed the hope that the international community would not forget its continuing responsibilities to the people of Namibia.

The representatives of Malaysia, Democratic Yemen, Zaire, Côte d'Ivoire the United States, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, Finland, China, Colombia, Romania, Canada, Cuba, Egypt, Brazil and Mali were among the speakers.

Jeremy B. Shearar of South Africa said the international dispute about the administration of the Territory was behind the international community. Namibia was now a free, independent, sovereign State, which had earned the recognition and good wishes of the nations of the world and those of southern Africa in particular. Progressive phases of internal self-determination had given the people of Namibia vital experience in self-government at various levels. Over the years, with the assistance and encouragement of South Africa, they had produced an enviable infrastructure which would equip the new country for the challenges that lay ahead. He appealed to the international community to recognize the need for tangible assistance for Namibia as it joined the community of nations.

On behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Mustafa Aksin (Turkey) said the trust placed in the Council by the international community 23 years ago had been fulfilled. The efforts had been invigorated and inflused by the solidarity displayed on the world community on the issue. Above all, the vision, grit and determination of the Namibian people themselves had provided direction. The Council had provided a unique instance of international trusteeship. Its creation had formalized a number of tenets and principles upon which the Organization had been built. Namibia had offered a dramatic and tangible example for making those principles work in a precise, defined instance.

* * *

The Secretary-General has expressed concern that proposals in the course of recent consultations concerning the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance would not meet the requirements described in the Tela agreements reached by the five Central American Presidents last August.

His spokeswoman said yesterday that consultations had been going on over the past few weeks between United Nations representatives and representatives of the Nicaraguan Government, the President-elect of Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan resistance, on modalities for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation of the members of the resistance.

In an aide-mémoire, the Secretary-General again emphasized that, if the goal of reconciliation was to be attained, basic conditions guaranteeing achievement of the objectives of Esquipulas II and the Tela plan must be met. Thus, for example, it was essential that there should be at least a clear and

unequivocal commitment by the Nicaraguan resistance that its members would demobilize in accordance with an agreed timetable.

The Secretary-General noted with concern that some of the positions taken, in the course of the contacts that had occurred, would place the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in a situation where members of the resistance not only would not hand over their weapons at the time of arrival at the assembly points, but would retain possession of them with no deadline for handing them over. Thus, ONUCA would have to guard or monitor indefinitely a large number of armed members of the resistance in "security zones" within Nicaraguan territory. This, the Secretary-General said, would be a highly dangerous assignment given the current political situation in Nicaragua, and one that would be difficult to perform in practice within the parameters under which the United Nations operates. It was arguable, moreover, whether an arrangement of this kind was in conformity with the Tela plan. Accordingly, he wished to make it quite clear that he would find it difficult, if not impossible, to recommend to the Security Council that it accept a proposal of that kind.

The Secretary-General recalled that it had always been the understanding of the United Nations that the handing over of the weapons should be a voluntary and individual act on the part of each combatant. Apart from the fact that this understanding followed from the Tela plan itself, it met with the practical requirement that ONUCA should be in a position to certify that the individual members of the resistance had effectively demobilized in order that the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) could provide them with assistance.

Nevertheless, said the Secretary-General, in recent consultations there had been proposals that the weapons should be handed over not individually, but collectively. In his view, such a proposal would vitiate the modality provided for in his demobilization proposal to the Security Council, distort the individual concept provided for in the Tela plan and pose insuperable practical problems with respect to certifying the demobilization and subsequently providing assistance to the former members of the Nicaraguan resistance.

The Secretary-General said he was prepared to launch an appeal for assistance through voluntary financial contributions for the work of voluntary repatriation or relocation. If the doubts which still persist with regard to the conduct of the prior phase of demobilization could be dissipated, the appeal would have a better chance of being favourably received. Accordingly, he hoped that, over the next few days, absolute priority would be given to clarifying the points mentioned before moving ahead, with a view to the implementation of the Tela plan.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/623
19 April 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is informed about agreement on a cease-fire in Nicaragua reached in Managua last night.

+ Noel Brown, Director of the United Nations office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), briefs correspondents on twentieth anniversary of Earth Day, to be celebrated at Headquarters on Sunday, 22 April.

+ International Telecommunication Union (ITU) body asks the United States Government to modify the technical characteristics of its Television Marti broadcasts to Cuba.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was informed this morning that there has been a breakthrough in the Central American peace process in Managua, and that, after an all-night session, agreement on a cease-fire in Nicaragua was reached, effective from noon today.

According to his spokeswoman, the Secretary-General was also informed that the calendar for the demobilization had been agreed upon, beginning 25 April and to be completed by 10 June.

The Secretary-General outlined the modalities for an enlargement of the United Nations Observer Mission in Central America (ONUCA) in a report to the Security Council issued on 15 March (document S/21194). The Council considered the report and agreed in principle, and on a contingency basis, to the Secretary-General's proposal on 5 April.

* * *

This Sunday marks the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day, and to commemorate the occasion, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will host a ceremony in the General Assembly Hall honouring individuals whose endeavours have given the world a clearer picture of the planet -- astronauts and cosmonauts.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Today, the Director of UNEP's New York office, Noel Brown, briefed correspondents on the upcoming ceremony and the Organization's participation in Earth Day, saying that just 30 years ago images of the planet taken from space could be seen for the first time.

He said historians might eventually find that this vision had a greater impact on thought than the Copernican revolution of the sixteenth century which, at the time, had upset the human self-image by revealing that the earth was not the centre of the universe. From space, earth was "a small and fragile ball dominated not by human activity and progress but by natural patterns of clouds, oceans, greenery and soils".

Mr. Brown said the 42 astronauts and cosmonauts joining the special Earth Day celebration on Sunday represented 14 countries. They had agreed to come to the United Nations to be "witness to the change", and to "bring a message and a warning to all of us".

The ceremony, to take place in the General Assembly Hall, at 3 p.m., is intended to promote a better understanding of the three-dimensional nature of the planet and its environment, to better safeguard the habitat for life on earth for generations to come.

* * *

The International Frequency Registration Board of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has asked the United States Government to modify the technical characteristics of its Television Marti broadcast to Cuba.

A letter dated 11 April from the Permanent Representative of Cuba, addressed to the President of the Security Council (document S/21249), asks that a letter from the ITU Board be circulated as a document of the Council. In it the Board stated that the operation of Television Marti was in violation of ITU radio regulations. It therefore requested the United States Administration to take "prompt action in eliminating this harmful interference".

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/624
20 April 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General asks Security Council for enlargement of mandate of United Nations Observer Mission in Central America as consequence of agreements signed in Managua yesterday by representatives of the Nicaraguan Government, of the President-elect, of the resistance army and of Cardinal Obando y Bravo, for an immediate cease-fire in that country.

+ President of Honduras tells correspondents at Headquarters that he is "optimistic" about agreements on cease-fire reached yesterday in Nicaragua.

+ Prime Minister of Namibia to visit Headquarters on Monday to address General Assembly and participate in the activities surrounding that country's admission as Member State in the United Nations.

+ 34 Governments pledge some $12 million for various United Nations trust funds and programmes for southern Africa at ceremony held to observe International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Secretary-General makes address.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar informed the members of the Security Council yesterday about a series of agreements that were signed in Managua earlier that day by the Government of Nicaragua, representatives of the President-elect, representatives of the Northern, Central and Atlantic Fronts of the Nicaraguan resistance and Cardinal Obando y Bravo, relating to the voluntary demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance.

In a letter to the President of the Council, the Secretary-General stated that as a consequence of these agreements, the parties had requested that the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) should monitor a cease-fire which came into effect at 12 noon local time yesterday.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Also to be monitored by ONUCA was the separation of forces which would result from the withdrawal of the Nicaraguan Government's forces from the security zones which were to be established in Nicaragua to facilitate the demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance.

These tasks would constitute an addition to the mandate of ONUCA and therefore require the approval of the Security Council.

The Secretary-General stated that he believed that the agreements signed yesterday in Managua constituted "an important step forward in the Central American peace process". He accordingly recommended that the Council approve the necessary enlargement of ONUCA's mandate.

* * *

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas of Honduras said at a press conference this afternoon that he was optimistic about the successful implementation of the Central American peace accords, including the latest Managua agreement on a cease-fire and demobilization of the contras, given the goodwill that existed on all sides. He hoped the Security Council would extend the mandate of ONUCA.

The President said Nicaragua required enormous resources and the goodwill of the international community to get back on its feet. Life for the contras and other Nicaraguans would not be easy. He was of the view that they should not be persecuted and should be allowed to work to ensure their reintegration into Nicaraguan society. He further stated that those who requested political asylum would be allowed to remain in Honduras, and the wounded would continue to receive medical treatment.

* * *

The Prime Minister of Namibia, Hage G. Geingob, will visit United Nations Headquarters on Monday, 23 April, to address the General Assembly and participate in the activities surrounding Namibia's admission as a Member State in the United Nations.

Mr. Geingob will arrive in the General Assembly Hall and take a seat in the section reserved for guests of honour.

The President of the General Assembly will then open the special session of the Assembly. After the admission of Namibia as a Member State, Prime Minister Geingob will address the Assembly. Following his address, the Prime Minister, accompanied by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General, will proceed to the Delegates' Entrance, where the flag raising ceremony will take place.

(more)

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister, accompanied by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General, will proceed to the visitors' lobby to open the Department of Public Information (DPI) exhibit on Namibia.

* * *

Thirty-four Governments made pledges and contributions yesterday totalling $12,024,792 for various United Nations trust funds and programmes for southern Africa.

The contributions and pledges were received by the Secretary-General at a ceremony held to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Secretary-General, in his address, said that while there had been positive developments in southern Africa, the Trust Fund for South Africa still needed to be able to respond to requests for assistance to persons persecuted under discriminatory legislation as well as to refugees from South Africa.

He said the United Nations Fund for Namibia was entering a transitional period. Its activities, which were already in progress, would continue pending a final decision by the General Assembly concerning Namibia-related funds. In order to ensure that ongoing activities of the Fund were phased out with minimal disruption, an appropriate level of contributions to the Fund would be required for this year.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/625
23 April 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Namibia is admitted as 160th member of the United Nations as General Assembly begins its special session on international economic co-operation. Addresses made by Secretary-General, President of Assembly, Prime Minister of Namibia and President of Council for Namibia.

+ Prime Minister Hage G. Geingob of Namibia tells press conference following the formal admission of the country as a United Nations Member that "Namibia is now free".

+ Security Council approves unanimously an expanded mandate for the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), to include monitoring both the cease-fire that came in effect in Nicaragua on 19 April and separation of forces which will result from the withdrawal.

+ Secretary-General proposes in letter to Security Council that it accepts offers received from the Governments of Brazil, Ecuador, India and Sweden to contribute a total of 85 military observers to ONUCA.

* * *

The General Assembly today admitted Namibia as the 160th Member State of the United Nations, as it began its special session on international economic co-operation.

Addressing the Assembly, the Secretary-General said the success of the United Nations operation in Namibia had encouraged other parties to call for similar peace-making and peace-keeping assistance in their regions. He stressed, however, that in order to do so effectively, the Organization needed "clear mandates, adequate resources and solid and consistent co-operation by all sides". He assured Namibia of the continued support and understanding of the United Nations.

The President of the Council for Namibia, Peter D. Zuze (Zambia), said that although this occasion was a great cause for celebration the problems were far from over. National development was just beginning, the task of restructuring the economy was quite substantial and extensive international

(more)

For information media—not an official record

assistance was necessary. He called on South Africa to abide by the will of the international community in recognizing the territorial integrity of Namibia.

The Prime Minister of Namibia, Hage G. Geingob, said the territory of Namibia was clearly defined and included Walvis Bay and the offshore islands; its southern boundary extended to the middle of the Orange River. His country was striving for a healthy balance between political and economic reconciliation. It was the fervent hope of the people of Namibia that their independence could serve as an example to the people of South Africa to fight against oppression.

The President of the Assembly, Joseph N. Garba (Nigeria), said all the main organs of the United Nations had played their part in helping the people of Namibia to achieve nationhood. Namibia had shown that the path was open to negotiation for the achievement of a multiracial society committed to democracy, the rule of law and respect of inalienable human rights, ordered liberties and fundamental freedoms.

As the Assembly took up the question of international economic co-operation, the Secretary-General said the developed market economies were enjoying an unprecedented period of expansion, while only a few developing countries had been able to achieve and maintain high levels of growth. But for most developing countries, the 1980s had brought no economic betterment. Without a reversal in the downward spiral of many, whole regions would be even more economically marginalized. Millions would be added to the more than 1 billion people already living in abject poverty.

Opening the debate on international economic co-operation, the Assembly President said that through the special session, the Assembly wanted to "give an impulse to international economic co-operation in order to overcome the slowdown of the world economy in the 1980s and the 'dual track development' that has left the majority of developing countries with retarded economies". Of the present concern about the diversion of funds from the third world to the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe, he said, no one could be sure of the answers at this moment. However, as the economies of the countries of Eastern Europe recovered, their integration into the world economy would provide new impulses to trade and growth from which developing countries could benefit. He said economic issues had not only become more interrelated themselves; they had become more political and more interwined with social and environmental issues.

* * *

Prime Minister Hage G. Geingob of Namibia said at a press conference following his country's formal admission as the 160th Member of the United Nations that "Namibia is now free". He said Namibia was "a small nation, but a very dynamic one that would like to develop into a true democratic State". However, the country needed investments and had opened its policy for investors.

(more)

To questions about relations with South Africa, the Prime Minister said South Africa was Namibia's neighbour. "You cannot choose neighbours, you can choose friends." Because of South Africa's policy of racial apartheid, normal diplomatic relations were not possible at the moment.

Asked if he saw all of the southern African States eventually developing into a common market following the route of Europe and working together co-operatively, Mr. Geingob said would be the "ideal situation". If southern Africa after South Africa had solved its own problems could stand together as a bloc, it would be a powerful force and that was his hope.

He said that Namibia, as part of South Africa, had suffered under sanctions. With Namibia's admission into the United Nations today, those sanctions against his country must be lifted.

* * *

The Security Council approved Friday evening an expanded mandate for the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), to include monitoring a cease-fire that came in effect last Thursday, 19 April. The resolution also provides for ONUCA to monitor the separation of forces which will result from the withdrawal of the Nicaraguan Government's forces from the security zones to be established to facilitate the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance in Nicaragua.

The Council's action followed a recommendation by the Secretary-General in response to a request of the parties to a series of agreements signed in Nicaragua, last Thursday -- the Government of Nicaragua, representatives of the President-elect, representatives of the Nicaraguan resistance and the Archbishop of Managua.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Cuba, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, said he had deep reservations on some aspects of the request, involving both substance and procedure. The latter had been most unusual as the request was the result of a series of agreements which the Council had not had before it. He would have liked the Council to consider the agreement itself. Aleksandr Belonogov (Soviet Union) said the security zones must not be permitted to become springboards for action in Nicaragua. The disarming of the contras must be assured. If that did not happen, the hopes for reconciliation in Nicaragua would be dashed and the authority of the United Nations would be undermined.

Alexander F. Watson (United States) said Nicaraguans had now determined their future by democratic means and expected to achieve internal peace -- not something imposed from outside. He hoped other conflicts in Central America could also be resolved quickly between internal parties, and that all external participation would contribute to that end.

* * *

(more)

The Secretary-General has proposed in a letter to the Security Council that it accept offers from the Governments of Brazil, Ecuador, India and Sweden to contribute a total of 85 military observers to ONUCA. The decision of a fifth Member country is awaited.

In his report of 15 March on ONUCA, which was approved by the Council, the Secretary-General indicated that he had asked certain Member countries to contribute the 119 additional military observers which were required to cover the shortfall in phase III of ONUCA's deployment and to permit the early deployment of phase IV.

Phase III of the deployment of ONUCA was expanded in a Council resolution of 27 March to include an 800-man infantry battalion from Venezuela. The timing of phase IV will be determined in the light of the progress and results achieved during the first three phases. The rest of the military observers and three additional helicopters will be deployed at 14 new verification centres, bringing to 33 the total of such centres.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/626
24 April 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly continues special session on economic co-operation, devoted, in particular, to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, hearing 11 speakers. Yesterday afternoon and evening, the Assembly heard 20 speakers.

+ Secretary-General proposes to convene pledging conference for the International Support and Verification Commission in Central America, to be held at Headquarters tomorrow, 25 April.

+ Secretary-General expresses "deep concern" about developments of new Jewish settlements in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's old city.

* * *

The General Assembly's special session on economic co-operation, devoted, in particular, to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries heard yesterday afternoon and evening 20 speakers who all addressed the urgent need for measures to relieve the external debt situation crippling the developing countries. They also recognized the opportunity inherent in the dramatic changes that had taken place in Eastern Europe and in the international climate generally over the past year.

During the course of the meeting, the President of the General Assembly, Joseph N. Garba (Nigeria) announced that the Assembly would not meet on Thursday, 26 April, thus leaving open the possibility that the special session would close on Saturday, 28 April.

The Assembly, which has established an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of all Member States, has before it the report of the Preparatory Committee for the special session. The report states that developed countries had achieved steady growth while most developing countries had encountered serious difficulties in adapting to structural changes. Other developing countries had achieved considerable economic and social progress.

There had been a deterioration in the terms of trade of the developing countries, with devastating effects for commodity-dependent developing

(more)

For information media—not an official record

countries. Eastern European countries had not been appropriately involved in the world economy.

Concerning the challenges and opportunities for the 1990s, the report states that regional economic integration represented an important mechanism for expanding trade and investment, and efforts in that direction should be encouraged. Trade liberalization in the European Economic Community (EEC) and between the United States and Canada should aim, it states, to generate positive impulses for world trade and development and to be free from protectionism.

The Preparatory Committee also submitted to the Assembly a compilation of five proposals for the introduction to the final document. One is a five-point draft declaration submitted by Bolivia on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries. It states that a new global covenant to promote international economic co-operation should be based on international recognition that the developing countries could play an important role in an increasingly interdependent world; that two thirds of the world could not continue to be subject to deprivation and abject poverty; and that there is a need to support the efforts of the developing countries to solve their economic and social problems through the creation of a favourable economic environment.

The others are a proposal submitted by Canada; a draft introduction submitted by Ireland, on behalf of the member States of the European Community; a draft by China; and a draft by the United States.

Among the speakers addressing the Assembly, Gerard Collins, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community said the Twelve would continue to provide substantial concessional support to the developing countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to the official development assistance (ODA) target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP), including 0.15 per cent for the least developed countries, he said. The establishment of a single market within the Community would create increased demand for a range of products from the developing world. The successful restructuring of the economies of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe would, over time, also provide valuable economic opportunities for the developing countries.

Inder Kumar Gujral, Minister for External Affairs of India, said the developing countries as a whole felt excluded from the recent growth in the world economy. Even though some of them had maintained the growth momentum, the vast majority were worse off than a decade ago. He said a growing imbalance was emerging in Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Issues of greatest concern to developing countries, such as textiles, tropical products and non-discriminatory safeguards, were being pushed to the back burner and greater importance was being attached to areas which were primarily of interest to developed countries.

Seydina Oumar Sy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, said the situation on the African continent was of increasing concern and its efforts

(more)

at restructuring must be met by appropriate changes in the world economy. His country had established a department of inter-African integration which was open to groups beyond the continent, he said, and private initiative could play a great role in the economies of the developing countries.

Among the 11 speakers addressing the the General Assembly this morning as it continued its special session, Guillermo Larco-Cox, Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, said "in a few words this has been a wasted decade for development". Efforts in the search for development had been fruitless.

Ernest E. Obminsky, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, said that from 1986 to 1989, the Soviet Union had alleviated the debt burden of developing countries in the amount of 14 billion roubles. Additional measures were being considered to reduce the debt of the least developed countries, mostly in Africa, which were recipients of Soviet credits. He expressed confidence that the active involvement of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries in the world economy would contribute to a balanced and sustained development of the latter for the benefit of all members of the international community.

Zheng Tuobin, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of China, said his country was a developing socialist country devoted to building a modernized economy. He said China's opening to the outside world meant developing economic and trade relations with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, actively absorbing external resources and learning from foreign scientific and technological achievements and managerial experience.

Tom Vraalsen, Minister of Development Co-operation of Norway, said a new consensus -- one which would provide a political basis for increased and improved international co-operation should be embodied in a declaration of the special session. It should be brief, clear and readable, make sense to the experts and appeal to both the hearts and the minds of interested and concerned men and women all over the world.

* * *

The Secretary-General has proposed to convene a pledging conference for the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) in Central America, to be held at United Nations Headquarters tomorrow, 25 April.

In a letter addressed to all Members of the United Nations on 18 April, the Secretary-General urged Governments to announce, at the earliest opportunity, generous financial contributions to the operation in order to enable the United Nations to implement phase III of CIAV's plan set up to advance the peace process in Central America.

According to the Tela Agreements, CIAV consisted of a United Nations component which would have responsibility for the repatriation and rehabilitation of those members of the Nicaraguan resistance who voluntarily

demobilized outside Nicaraguan territory. The Organization of American States (OAS) component had responsibility for the members of the resistance who would voluntarily demobilize on Nicaraguan territory.

The Secretary-General further stated that the initial financial requirements for the first year of operation of the United Nations component of CIAV were estimated at some $55 million. He said the number of returnees were estimated at 90,000, with 60,000 to be repatriated from Honduras and 30,000 from Costa Rica.

* * *

The Secretary-General has been following with "deep concern" the developments of new Jewish settlements in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's old city.

In answer to questions about the situation in the city, the Secretary-General's Spokesman said today at a press briefing at Headquarters that the Secretary-General had refrained thus far from commenting while awaiting the decision of Israel's high Court in that regard.

He said that in accordance with numerous resolutions, the Secretary-General had opposed all settlement activity in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. However, he was particularly disturbed to learn of the involvement of some Israeli officials in the financial transactions that led to the move of Jewish settlers to the Christian quarter. Such actions could "only impede efforts aimed at promoting a peaceful settlement".

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/627
25 April 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly continues special session on economic co-operation, hearing 10 speakers. Yesterday afternoon and evening, the Assembly heard 22 speakers.

+ Secretary-General makes statement at pledging conference for International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) in Central America, at Headquarters.

+ Secretary-General delivers statement during informal consultations with Member countries on assistance to Namibia.

+ Conference on Disarmament concludes first part of 1990 session in Geneva, hearing closing statement by President, and final statements by a number of countries.

* * *

The pressing need to alleviate the debt crisis, to improve financial flows to developing countries and to eliminate trade barriers were the major issues addressed by speakers Tuesday afternoon in the General Assembly's debate on international economic co-operation.

Among the speakers addressing the Assembly, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Obed Asamoah, said that in 1988, Ghana had lost $100 million from the drop in the cocoa price, money that would have enabled Ghana to increase its domestic investment, expand its productive capacity and create jobs to bolster its structural adjustment programme.

The introduction of the Common Fund was a positive development, and international support should be strengthened to ensure its smooth and effective functioning, he said. Those countries which had not joined the Fund should do so.

Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development of the United Kingdom, said the more affluent countries had an important role to play in supporting sustained programmes of economic recovery and development. But all now

(more)

For information media—not an official record

recognized that the prime responsibility for implementing sound strategies for economic progress rested with the poorer countries themselves.

Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, called attention to the harmful effects of trade barriers. According to some estimates, in agriculture alone, the Governments of the developed countries spent almost $200 billion annually on protection and substitution. That figure was 2.5 times the total amount of all assistance to the developing countries.

Sergiu Celac, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, said Romania now approached world economic issues, including those on the agenda of the special session, in light of the deep changes and challenges facing its own economy. As a European country, Romania attached great importance to its relations with the other countries of the continent. Building a new Europe should not, however, become an exclusive enterprise.

Babacar Ndiaye, President of the African Development Bank, said the current crisis had meant that living conditions in parts of Africa, already among the lowest in the world, had deteriorated to levels which, by any standard, were unacceptable to modern civilization. Some 27 of the 35 countries classified as "least developed" by the United Nations were located in Africa.

In statements this morning, N'Golo Traore, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Mali, said hundreds of millions of men, women and children still lived in a state of total deprivation. The mechanisms governing international trade contained within them factors that led to the "marginalization" of developing countries.

African countries had, therefore, developed their own plan, better suited to its own socio-economic systems, he said. Furthermore, the strategy must be ecological sound. Africa had been on the verge of becoming the "dustbin for the toxic waste of the planet", before such shocking plans had been stopped.

Thomas R. Pickering, of the United States, said his country supported market-oriented economic reforms because they created sustainable growth and development. All countries were urged to adopt appropriate economic policies, even if it would require substantial adjustments. On external debt of developing countries, he said creditor Governments had renewed commitment to support efforts by debtor countries through contribution to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, export finance and relief on bilateral debt obligations through reschedulings by the Paris Club. Mexico, Chile, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Morocco had benefited from that strategy, he said, and he asked other countries to follow suit. The United States was in process of forgiving $850 million in economic assistance loans to 14 sub-Saharan African countries which were pursuing economic reforms, he added.

Rilwanu Lukman, Minister of External Affairs of Nigeria, said the conventional notion that sustained growth in the industrialized nations would serve as engine of growth in the South and had not been borne out by events of

the 1980s. Africa's dismal development performance showed up in a range of indicators. For example, within the decade, six African countries had fallen from the middle-income to the low-income category. At the same time, the number of African countries classified as least developed increased from 17 to 18. Africa's debt had risen from approximately $48 billion in 1978 to an estimated $250 billion in 1989, with debt-service obligations witnessing a phenomenal growth.

Juan Somavia, of Chile, said the great responsibility was to deepen the capacity for consensus building and take advantage of weakening ideological confrontations in order to again agree on the fundamental values of the United Nations Charter.

N.M. Shamuyarira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe, said the structural adjustment programmes that had been imposed on the developing countries in the 1980s had impeded recovery. Rather than addressing the fundamental economic problems of those countries, the adjustment measures etched at the symptoms.

The Ad Hoc Committee of the eighteenth special session this morning heard statements by representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank, as it continued its preparation of the final document to be submitted to the plenary body.

Horst Weisbach, Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), said much of UNIDO's assistance would focus on helping developing countries to rectify policies through improved decision-making and to strike a more equitable balance between the public and the private sector. It would continue efforts to preserve past industrial investment and to ensure the environmental sustainability of the industrial development process.

David Loos, representative of the World Bank, said developing countries should act to chart their own destinies. The Bank was committed to carrying its share of the burden, and he called for a co-ordinated effort in the fight against poverty through sustainable equitable growth.

* * *

The Secretary-General, in a statement delivered this morning to the Pledging Conference for the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), said it was crucial that early pledges be made to finance the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in CIAV's plan set up to advance the peace process in Central America. They were ready to begin operations, but neither of these organizations had funds of their own that could be used for these tasks.

(more)

The Secretary-General stressed that an early and positive response to the appeal sent to the member Governments last week (18 April) was essential in order to permit CIAV to begin its urgent humanitarian task "lest the peace process be adversely affected".

Those members of the Nicaraguan Resistance who were still in Honduras were demobilized in the course of last week, the Secretary-General noted. Those in Nicaragua agreed last Wednesday (18 April) in Managua to begin demobilizing today in a process that should be concluded by 10 June.

The CIAV was established last September at the request of the Central American Presidents for the purpose of implementing the plan agreed by them at their Tela, Honduras, meeting for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation in Nicaragua or third countries of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and their families. The operation is to be carried out by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) with their responsibilities delineated.

The United Nations component of the Commission would have the responsibility for those members of the Nicaraguan Resistance who voluntarily demobilize outside Nicaraguan territory (in Honduras or Costa Rica) and would also be responsible for their subsequent repatriation as well as that of their families who opted for the Tela Plan. Its responsibility would also extend to the follow-up in Nicaragua of the returnees and taking care of their families and rehabilitation needs until they were integrated into development activities.

* * *

The Secretary-General, in a statement delivered yesterday during informal consultations with Member countries on assistance to Namibia, said studies undertaken by the Organization revealed the serious nature and magnitude of some of the urgent economic and social problems which face the new State.

The meeting had been convened as part of the process for mobilizing and extending international assistance to the people and Government of Namibia, in the urgent task of reconstruction and development of their national economy.

In earlier meetings with the elected leadership of Namibia initiated by the United Nations, it had been agreed that a Donor Pledging Conference would be held in New York on 21 and 22 June.

The Secretary-General stated that among the social problems facing Namibia were the substantial number of returnees from neighbouring countries who needed to be resettled and to have access to productive employment and decent housing. Among the serious economic problems were the inherited budget

(more)

deficit of the new State estimated this year to be approximately 500 million rand (equivalent to about $200 million); and the problem of resolving a debt of 700 million rand which was contracted and guaranteed by the former administration during the pre-independence period.

* * *

The Conference on Disarmament concluded yesterday the first part of its 1990 session, hearing a closing statement by its President for the month of April, Ahmad Kamal of Pakistan, who said there had been progress in many areas, but much more remained to be done. He briefly reviewed the work accomplished by the Conference during the first three months and welcomed the briefing by the delegations of the United States and the Soviet Union on the status of the strategic arms reduction talks (START), saying that such briefings were helpful for keeping the Conference up to date on developments.

Among the delegates expressing their views, Paul Joachim Von Stulpnagel, of the Federal Republic of Germany, said disarmament activities in Europe, and hopefully also in other parts of the world, now had a chance to be energetically activated with the new developments in Eastern Europe.

Marcos Castrioto De Azambuja, of Brazil, said disarmament should be a process of assymetrical reductions, based on the concept of leveling out, with special responsibility incumbent upon the more heavily armed States to be the catalysts of the whole process.

Stephen J. Ledogar, of the United States, provided information on the fifteenth round of the United States-Soviet consultations on the prohibition of chemical weapons, which was currently under way. In the previous round the delegations had devoted particular attention to completion of a bilateral agreement on reciprocal obligations of the United States and the Soviet Union pending a multilateral convention including the destruction of the bulk of their chemical weapons stocks to equal low levels. They also had agreed that the chemical weapons stocks of both sides would be reduced to a level of 20 per cent of the current United States stockpile. The fifteenth round is to conclude on 26 April.

Nabil A. Elaraby, of Egypt, drew attention to the letter addressed to the Secretary-General from the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Egypt concerning the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Since 1974 Egypt had annually proposed to the General Assembly establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. That proposal had been endorsed by the General Assembly by consensus since 1980.

Peter Dietze, of the German Democratic Republic, said the unification of Germany was to enhance stability in Europe and to promote the establishment of a pan-European order of peace, democracy and co-operation. Loyalty to the Warsaw Treaty meant, among other things, that in the forthcoming negotiations his Government would always take into account the security interests of the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Treaty States.

* *** *